



# News from Village Hall



Winter 2012

## From The Desk Of The Village President

Fellow Residents:

It's the later part of winter, and the Village is doing many things like police work, snow plowing, and planning for summer road construction. In addition, the Village is working on a large number of items that are larger than the Village itself. These include legislation to protect our tax dollars from being acquired by county and state governments, storm and ground water protection, and fighting burdensome regulation that does not contribute to health and safety in our Village such as some of the new FOIA requirements. Much of this work is done through our participation in COG's, which I will discuss in a moment.



**Financial Health and Taxes:** The Village continues to remain in excellent financial health with a stable budget, strong cash reserves, and our two pension funds (IMRF and Police Pension Fund) in excellent health. The Village has not raised its property tax levy in 3 years and this will be the 4th year I will continue to push for no property tax increases. This is despite the dramatic increases in costs for fuel and oil based products such as asphalt.

The Village's approximately \$8.5M budget is divided into three basic functions: police operations, road management, and environment/zoning protection – including protection of ground water for drinking. Roughly \$6.5M comes from property taxes, while the remaining \$2.0M comes from other revenue sources including state allocations and local distributed funds.

The challenge in managing the Village budget is that many of our costs are either fixed or not within our control, such as the 30,000 gallons of gasoline we purchase each year to fuel our squad cars for our police protection. While our police force and staff are very stable and

experienced, most in the mid-portion of their careers, their salaries place upward pressure on the budget as personnel experience grows. Inflation in the prices of items we purchase grows at around 4%/year. Without a continual improvement in overall efficiency, mostly through the application of emerging technologies, the Village would be forced to either raise taxes or cut services. This would potentially mean less police protection, reduced road maintenance and snow management, and/or reductions in the protection of our environment and drinking water. Fortunately, our staff, the Trustees, and the many volunteers on our various committees are all successfully working to find ways to improve operations.

I and the Board of Trustees also serve without any compensation as has been done through the history of the Village. While many of us continue to see rising tax bills, I can assure you this is not caused by the Village levy which typically makes up some 15-20% of your tax bill depending upon your individual property.

**What the heck is a COG?** A COG, or Council of Governments, is an organization of the mayors, township supervisors and county board chairmen in a particular region. COG's are an artifact of state statute allowing intergovernmental cooperation. Barrington Hills participates in a number of these COG's in order to protect the interests of our community and improve operational efficiencies. Notably, we are one of the nine members of the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG). Barrington Hills has been a BACOG member since its inception some 40 years ago. BACOG has been enormously helpful to the Village with issues such as land use, ground water protection, transportation, and legislation. Additionally, BACOG provides a monthly forum for the mayors and township supervisors to candidly discuss issues, trade ideas and insights, and work to share resources saving tax dollars. BACOG members maintain their membership through dues which are set as a function

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## AGGREGATION REFERENDUM

On March 20, 2012 you will be asked to cast your vote on an issue which may reduce the future costs that Village residents pay for the electricity supply portion of their Commonwealth Edison bill.

Local municipalities now have the ability by referendum to count their residents collectively in order to purchase electricity for them at a lower rate than they are charged by ComEd. This method of buying electricity is called "aggregation" and was just recently allowed by the State's deregulation of the utility.

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### From The Desk Of The Village President continued from page 1

of the member's size. In the case of Barrington Hills, our dues run approximately \$34,000/year. Over the years, BACOG has saved Barrington Hills taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars through zoning protection and legislative efforts that protect non-property tax revenues, and reduced operating costs.

The president of BACOG rotates each year through each of the nine members. Historically, BACOG has worked carefully to maintain its independence and not be overly influenced by any one member. As part of this effort to maintain objectivity, BACOG has maintained its own office space and facilities. However, with the downturn of the economy and the resulting loss of business sales tax revenue, the BACOG members have looked at the costs associated with maintaining independent headquarters for BACOG. As a cost saving measure for all of us, I proposed to consider housing BACOG's operations at the Barrington Hills Village Hall. We currently have some extra space because of the work we have done with digitizing records and eliminating unused assets. After careful discussion and voting by the Barrington Hills Board of Trustees, the BACOG Board, and the various member boards, BACOG and Barrington Hills have reached a 2 year lease agreement which has no cost to Barrington Hills, and a very small cost to BACOG. This move, which will occur in June of this year, saves Barrington Hills some \$10,000 per year in BACOG dues and a similar savings to each of the BACOG members. The agreement allows BACOG to continue focus on the needs of its membership while reducing its operating costs.

It is worth noting that this is a similar agreement to the one we have with Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District (BCFPD). The Village owns the land and building for the fire station located at the Village Hall site. We rent this facility to BCFPD for \$1/year as part of an intergovernmental agreement established back in the previous century.

**How the State impacts your taxes:** Some of you have asked why we participate in legislative activities working in concert with the other municipalities through our COG's or individually. The Village works to minimize the impact of legislation which creates new costs to the Village, impedes operational efficiency, or degrades zoning and environmental protection. Most of this effort is concentrated at the state level. There are two major areas that impact us as taxpayers: 1. Legislation which attempts to re-appropriate Village revenues to the state budget; 2. Legislation which increases costs to our Village. These financial threats have increased dramatically in the last 2 years.

For example, changes to the union statutes and FOIA requirements have added hundreds of thousands of dollars to the cost structure for our Village and other municipalities. These pieces of legislation created no added value or governmental transparency. But they have provided political cover for state legislators on both sides of the aisle at the expense of our tax dollars. We are working to reverse these types of statutes while stopping much of this legislation before it ever gets to be law. It's time our state legislators focus on their \$14B budget deficit

instead of creating distractions in local governments where budgets are balanced and services are maintained.

**Electricity Choice – Reducing your costs:** In 2010-2011, electric deregulation legislation allowed for municipalities to negotiate for better energy pricing for its residents. The process begins with a community referendum which for us will occur on March 20th. If approved, the Village will negotiate for better electric energy prices than are currently available for our residents, potentially saving us all between 20% and 40% on our electric bills.

Electric power is billed in two parts, delivery (wires, billing, customer service) and energy (the actual electricity). Each of these two parts makes up about half the bill. ComEd does the delivery and the billing. Currently, Exelon provides the energy portion of your electricity unless you have already independently switched. Any change in energy provider does not affect the ComEd portion, your delivery, billing, or customer/outage service from ComEd.

If approved by the voters in March, the new system simply gives our residents more choice. 1. You can opt-out of the new program and stay with Exelon or your current 3rd party provider – no change to your current situation. 2. You can get more savings by going with the new supplier or different billing rate. 3. Or you can contract independently from a third party supplier.

Personally, I purchase my power in real-time using the ComEd RRTP program (see [www.WattSpot.com](http://www.WattSpot.com)). This provides the cheapest energy but you are at risk of certain high cost hours in the month if you are not careful. So it is not for the faint of heart. If you have energy management systems and software integrated into your home systems as Patricia and I do, this may be a good option for you.

Read more about "Electric Aggregation" later in this issue of the newsletter. Please contact me or Trustee Karen Selman if you have any further questions on this or any other issues.

I want to encourage you to take full advantage of the Village WEB site, [www.BarringtonHills-IL.gov](http://www.BarringtonHills-IL.gov). Here you will find all the Village communication, meeting schedules, a fully searchable version of the Village Code, and all the latest happenings within the Village. I would like your feedback on how we can make this WEB site more useful to you.

I encourage you to continue to communicate directly with me and the Trustees. I invite you to attend our regular Board and committee meetings and get involved. There are still slots available on several committees and I am always looking for more volunteers. We need your feedback and ideas. I can be reached directly either by e-mail or phone and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Robert G. Abboud  
President, Village of Barrington Hills  
Village Hall Office: 847-551-3000  
Home: 847-381-8174  
Cell: 847-921-1932  
[President@BarringtonHills-IL.gov](mailto:President@BarringtonHills-IL.gov)



**AGGREGATION REFERENDUM** continued from page 1

A **"Yes"** majority vote will give the Village permission to shop for competitive electrical power rates among a host of suppliers both in and outside of Illinois. If the Village determines that a rate is beneficial to the residents, it will enter into a contract to purchase this energy from the electric supplier and will pass on the benefit to the residents.

The amount of savings for each resident cannot be determined until the energy is purchased. However, aggregated buyers create increased purchasing power, and shopping among competitive rates should result in cost savings to the residents. These savings can then be calculated dependent upon each resident's usage.

Residents can choose to accept or reject the designated supplier. There will be no additional charge to the residents of the Village, regardless of their choice. ComEd will continue to bill the residents and will continue to maintain the power lines within the Village; their meter and meter-reading will remain the same. The only change to the ComEd bill for residents will be the amount charged for the electrical energy supply.

Some Village residents already purchase their electricity from a supplier other than Commonwealth Edison. Nothing will prevent them from continuing to do so.

A **"No"** majority vote will not grant the Village the authority to shop for alternative electrical suppliers.

The Village will hold an open-house on March 14 from 3 pm to 7 pm at the Village Hall to answer any questions you might have regarding aggregation or the upcoming referendum. Please watch the web site [www.barringtonhills-il.gov](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov) for details.

If information is required sooner please contact the Village Clerk at [clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov) and put AGGREGATION in the subject line.

*It is important to keep in mind that even with the Village's aggregation referendum coming up it will take time for the Village to implement any program even if the referendum is successful. In the meantime, there are opportunities available now for homeowners to change electrical suppliers or programs in search of lower costs.*

*There are currently two types of programs available to homeowners. First there are discount suppliers that offer lower fixed rates than the standard ComEd rate. Some of these include green options with portions or all of the power coming from renewable sources. The latter tend to be more costly. The providers currently offering residential contracts can be found on this website:*

<http://www.pluginillinois.org/offers.aspx?said=1>

*The other type of program is an 'hourly electric pricing program'. Electricity is sold wholesale by the hour to suppliers like ComEd. Under this program you will be able to buy at those same hourly prices. Wholesale electric prices are very seasonal and time specific. The largest use of electricity in the residential market is air conditioning. This is why wholesale prices are very high in the summer months and during the hours of the day that typically have the highest temperatures. Electricity in the winter is relatively less expensive. If your home uses more electricity in the winter months due to such things as electric heating, then the hourly program could save you a substantial amount. The website for information and enrollment is: <http://www.thewattspot.com/>*



**Cornwall and Fox River Valley Hunts**  
Master of Foxhounds Tony Leahy leads the field of hounds and riders through the beautiful acreage of Horizon Farms.



## TRUSTEE UPDATE—

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**Patty Meroni**

**Roads and Bridges**  
[pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov)

Following last year's extremes of snow, rain and storms, 2012 has so far brought the opposite. As we approach the midpoint of winter, the weather continues to astound with mild temperatures and little snowfall. After last winter's storms and endless snow, this is currently the 11th warmest winter on record in the Chicago area.

Good news for our roads and those wanting to go outside and enjoy walking, running, biking, riding, or catching up on unfinished yard chores. But, winter's not over yet, so don't put away those shovels and snow blowers!

Commonwealth Edison has had dozens of tree trimmers all over the village (hard not to see them) cutting branches and whole trees and generally trying to do massive clearing after all the outages and downed trees in last summer's storms. They have even gone down private roads and drives and back property lines to try and minimize tree damage to power lines from future storms.

The 2012 Road Program is underway with preliminary engineering and agreements with property owners started. This year's projects include culvert replacements, patching, resurfacing and special sealcoating to extend the life of the road surface by 8.5 years for Caesar Drive, Dana Lane, Braeburn Road, Dundee Lane, Steeplechase and Cross Timber, plus storm sewer improvements on Caesar Drive.

Cuba Road Bridge is slated for replacement by 2020 and preliminary engineering has begun in preparation for requesting funding through the Federal Highway Program.

A meeting for Private Road Coordinators was held on February 21 at the Barrington Library to share information, offer assistance and hopefully make the job for these coordinators a little easier by sharing information and questions.

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**Elaine M. Ramesh**

**Planning**  
[eramesh@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:eramesh@barringtonhills-il.gov)

The Plan Commission has reviewed and provided input to Kane County's 2040 Plan. Interested residents can find the details of the county's proposals at [www.qualityofkane.org](http://www.qualityofkane.org).

McHenry County has invited residents to take a survey related to the development of a Long Range Transportation Plan ([www.2040mchenrycountyplan.org](http://www.2040mchenrycountyplan.org)).

In other McHenry County news, draft language for a Unified Development Ordinance (a new set of rules to apply to all unincorporated county property) should be released shortly; and the county board recently voted to increase their budget by 1.5%, which will mean higher taxes.

The McHenry County Conservation District has begun the process of a site Master Plan development for the 279 acre Fox Bluff/Camp Algonquin property. Barrington Hills has been invited to participate in the year-long process to design future use of the property for conservation and/or recreational purposes as a stakeholder; and as a member of the McHenry County Conservation District's Citizens Advisory Committee, I have also been involved in the planning process. Residents will be given the opportunity for input to the proposal for use of the property at Open Houses to be held later this year. For more information, please visit [www.mccd-district.org](http://www.mccd-district.org).

Finally, due to redistricting, all of the McHenry County board seats are up for election on March 20, 2012. Barrington Hills McHenry County residents are in District 1, which has four representatives. Five candidates have filed to run in the election. The top four vote getters will be put into a lottery to determine which two of them will be elected for four years and which two of them will be elected for two years; so that terms are appropriately staggered. A Barrington Hills resident, Dr. Anne Majewski, is running unopposed for the county-wide position of Coroner. There is a link to the county's website ([www.co.mchenry.il.us](http://www.co.mchenry.il.us)) on our Village website, for the latest updates.

Cook County news and a summary of village-related interactions with both Cook County and the Forest Preserve will be the focus of my next article.

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**Fritz Gohl**

**Public Safety**  
[fgohl@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:fgohl@barringtonhills-il.gov)

### Vehicle Stickers

It's time to buy your 2012-2013 Vehicle Stickers. For your convenience, stickers can be purchased through the mail, in person at the police department, or online. Tickets for cars and motorcycles are \$10 if purchased April 1 through May 31, and then \$20 if purchased after June 1. Trucks stickers are \$11 from April 1 through May 31, and then \$22 after June 1. Please see the web site for instructions on how to purchase stickers online.

Current stickers must be displayed by May 1. A vehicle sticker is required for all vehicles registered or garaged within the

# TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Village of Barrington Hills. Failure to comply with the ordinance may result in a \$25 citation. If you do not receive a form in the mail please visit the police department so that your vehicle and contact information can be updated.

**Karen S. Selman**

**Finance**

[kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov)

I'm pleased to announce that the year-end revenue/expenditure report shows that the Village Fiscal Year 2011 Budget ended on a positive note, and that the year-end reserves are stable. The Board of Trustees passed the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget at the November Board Meeting.

January 1st began fiscal year 2012 for the Village budget. The Finance Committee has worked hard these past few months to assure that appropriate Village expenditures have been trimmed to allow for a balanced budget for this year with no increase to property taxes for the third year in a row.

There are many pulls on our budget, both foreseen and unforeseen. The following items challenge the budget - increased Freedom of Information Act requests, union arbitration negotiations, unexpected repairs to Village roads and bridges, gas and asphalt prices, and unfunded state mandates – and challenge the Finance Committee in its management of matching expenditures to revenues. However, the committee is committed to doing just that and will continue to search for creative ways to accomplish its goal.

In light of this challenge, a proposal for the Village to purchase video equipment to film the Village Board of Trustees meetings, which would enable residents to watch the meetings on their home televisions or internet, met with mixed opinion of the trustees. A single camera would enable residents to see the board members, but not the entire audience proceedings. To actually film the entire meeting room would require additional cameras. After reviewing estimated cost figures - \$35,000 for a one camera system and a cost of \$4,800 to \$10,560 annually to manage the content, it was determined that this unplanned expenditure would be burdensome for the already-approved balanced budget and was narrowly defeated.

The trustees did approve updating the audio equipment in the board room, adding a \$5,000 expenditure to the FY2011 Budget. This improvement has greatly enhanced the sound quality of the audio recordings. A listener may easily follow the proceedings of the board meetings as posted at [www.barringtonhills-il.gov/board.htm](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/board.htm)

The trustees also approved a motion to ask the residents for direction in the decision to make this purchase of a video system. If you would like to watch the board proceedings on your television and think the Village **SHOULD** make this purchase, please contact us at [clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov) or 847-551-3000 with your opinion.

**Harold "Skip" Gianopulos**

**Insurance, Health, Environment, Building & Grounds**

[sgianopulos@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:sgianopulos@barringtonhills-il.gov)

So you've set your goals for a new and better you in 2012! Have you given some thought as to your garbage habits? If you've already been recycling for years, please continue to do so. To help you get started, all the licensed village waste haulers have specific details of what and how they recycle on their websites:

Groot (847) 734-6400

<http://www.groot.com/waste-management-chicago/what-to-recycle>

Prairie Land Disposal (847) 381-9300

<http://www.prairielanddisposal.com/recycling.html>

Waste Management (800) 796-9696

<http://www.wm.com/customer-service/residential-recycling-faq.jsp>

If you've not yet viewed the websites, most companies are looking for "the big five" of aluminum, glass, paper, plastic and steel. Almost all allow your recycled items to be mixed or "co-mingled" into one container (preferably with a lid to keep debris from flying out and to deter animals prior to your scheduled pickup). Paper may be placed in paper bags (optional). Please flatten all corrugated cardboard and paperboard boxes, removing any non-paper packing material ("peanuts"). Rinse all containers that had food and leave the lids on liquid containers.

Do NOT place these items into your waste hauler recycle container: plastic hangers (return to your cleaner), mirrors, light bulbs, window glass or ceramics. Please do NOT recycle soiled paper (oily pizza boxes, dirty paper napkins) or batteries.

Avoid placing materials in plastic bags; do not include Styrofoam, wood, plastic film, plastic bags, plastic toys or diapers. Do NOT recycle electronics.

Please note: since January 1, 2012 new e-scrap legislation has gone into effect. Waste haulers will no longer pick up garbage with a cord or battery; these items must now by law be recycled. For specific information about how and where

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# TRUSTEE UPDATE—

**Harold “Skip” Gianopulos** continued from page 5

to recycle the above items, please visit your individual waste hauler website. We are a village of more than 30 square miles, 4 counties and many townships. Your specific home location will determine what local municipalities would serve your recycle needs.

We want to make it easier for residents to comply with the law and to reduce, reuse and recycle. To that end, the village will sponsor a dumpster at the Village Hall for residents to deposit E-Waste on Saturday April 21 from 8 am to 12 pm. Set aside all your old or unused electric items and bring them to the special E-Waste dumpster on 4/21. In addition, you can bring electric trash to the Cuba Township garage every Friday from 7:30-2:30 for disposal. You can also visit following websites for permanent and temporary recycling locations:

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) 847-724-9205  
Solid Waste Agency of Lake County [www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org) 847-336-9340  
Kane County Jennifer Jarland 630-208-3841 [www.countyofkane.org](http://www.countyofkane.org)

We also want to do our part to minimize our impact on the environment. If your household would prefer to receive your newsletter via email please contact us at: [green@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:green@barringtonhills-il.gov) or [clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov).

Come see the improvements made to the Civil War Monument Boulder and reflection space, located at the corners of Old Sutton & Rte 68. The Village of Barrington Hills Beautification Committee members worked with members of the New Friends Wesleyan Church to reclaim this historic site from years of overgrowth and neglect. It was dedicated by American Legion Post 158 in 1933, with a plaque naming 88 of the locals who mustered into the Union Army on this ground in 1861.

This area was the center of what is now known as Barrington Township, prior to towns or villages being settled or the railroad being laid. With the Algonquin Trail (now Rte 62) running through our area, important military & government people are reported to have come along that trail, stopping at the Stage Post at Barrington Center. General Grant was just one of those; it is thought that Abe Lincoln may also have stopped on his way between his jobs on the Fox & Mississippi Rivers and Chicago when he was a young man. We should celebrate the importance of our heritage. If you are a history buff or are interested in the Civil War come join us for our restoration projects in 2012.

The Beautification Committee would like to say “thank you” to the many volunteers who have donated their time to our “Roadside Trash Pick Ups” over the years. The Riding Club, local Boy Scout troops, garden groups and individuals have given their time clean our “shared” roadways. Please mark your calendars for our NEXT village wide roadside trash pick up on April 21, and contact us to register your group or sign up as an individual to come and help make a difference in our community. Contact us at: [green@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:green@barringtonhills-il.gov) or 847-551-3000.

**Joseph Messer**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
[jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov)



## Determine If A Permit Is Required Before Beginning Improvements or Removing Trees

The Village has recently experienced an increase in the number of residents who have failed to obtain permits before beginning property improving projects. This has led to situations where residents have made significant investments of time and money in their properties only to learn that their improvements violate Village ordinances, such as those governing set back and floor area ratio requirements.

The Village typically becomes aware of these situations only after receiving complaints from neighbors. Historically the Village has not sought fines against these residents in building court and has instead attempted to work with them to bring their projects into compliance. Given the increased number of violations, however, the Village has changed its policy and will now seek fines in building court against residents who violate the building code. Further, the Village may require residents to pay their fines before allowing them to seek variances for their projects through the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Residents should also be aware of the Village's Heritage Tree Ordinance. This ordinance, which has been in place for several years, requires a tree removal permit for the destruction or removal of any heritage tree. The intent of this ordinance is to protect high quality trees which benefit our environment. Under the

HERITAGE TREES PROTECTED BY ORDINANCE	DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT
Oak	10 inches or greater
White Oak (Quercus alba)	10 inches or greater
Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor)	10 inches or greater
Hill's Oak (Quercus ellipsoidalis )	10 inches or greater
Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa )	10 inches or greater
Red Oak (Quercus ruba)	10 inches or greater
Black Oak (Quercus velutina)	10 inches or greater
Hickory	8 inches or greater
Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata )	8 inches or greater
Bitternut Hickory (Carya cordiformis)	8 inches or greater
Pignut Hickory ( Carya glabra )	8 inches or greater
Ironwood (Ostrya virginiana )	6 inches or greater
Wild Black Cherry (Prunus serotin)	8 inches or greater
Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis )	8 inches or greater
Black Walnut (Juglans nigra)	8 inches or greater
Basswood/Linden (Tilia americana)	10 inches or greater
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)	10 inches or greater

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ordinance those who remove heritage trees are generally required to mitigate the loss by planting replacement trees. Unfortunately there have been some instances where the ordinance has been ignored and heritage trees have been clear cut. Before removing any trees please review the ordinance which begins at section 4-6-1 of our Code.

Village staff is available to provide guidance. Please call for assistance during the planning stage of your project. You can move your project forward without delay by calling first.

## Conservation Corner

By Jim Voris

The forest preserve has long been known as a center for horse activity in Barrington Hills, and in recent years also as a focal point for prairie, woodland, and wetland restoration efforts. But it took Ginger Underwood, President of The Friends of Spring Creek and long time member of the Riding Club of Barrington Hills, to come up with a brainstorm that would bring those two interests together for a day.

For several years, volunteers have seeded the 55 acre field just east and south of the Riding Center in January. However, this year the usual seeders found themselves with an unusually large amount of what they call Power Mix Seed to disperse. Citizens for Conservation collected, cleaned, mixed, and delivered this valuable seed mix to the Spring Creek Stewards for sowing in the forest preserve. What was unusual was the huge amount! Now, a bigger group of seeders needed to be gathered.

Meanwhile, outside horse activities had slowed to a mere trot and the Riding Club was looking for ways to engage its membership during this annual down time. That's when the light went on in Ginger's head. How about asking the Riding Club and Pony Club members to help distribute the seed? And this time, why not ask them to hand sow seed from horseback? The usual army of walking seed tossers could then be supported by a cavalry of horseback seed throwers ..... or as they have since come to be known "Saddle Sowers".

The morning of Sunday January 8th found over twenty riders, forty plus walkers, and a team of breakfast chefs led by Martha Adams at the Riding Center. After a fine feeding frenzy in the club room (with food provided by the Riding Club), participants gathered outside in the 45 degree sunshine for an orientation as to the history of the restoration work at Spring Creek as well as our goals and methods for the day. Speakers included Justin Pepper of Chicago Audubon, Bill Koenig of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and myself on behalf of the lead sponsor of the event, The Friends of Spring Creek. We all emphasized how amazing the weather was, the size of the group, the uniqueness of the mix of individuals, and, foremost, the incredible level of cooperation between organizations and governing bodies that was being demonstrated on that morning. In addition to people from the many groups already mentioned, volunteers were there from the Village of Barrington Hills, the Barrington Countryside Park District, Citizens for Conservation and the Northwest Suburban Sierra Club.



Amazingly, all the seed was sown in about an hour (many hands and hooves made light work). Afterward volunteers returned to the clubhouse for a meal of chili plus. Another measure of the day was evidenced by the number of volunteers who stuck around long after the "work" was done. Some rode the trails (including the Deputy Superintendent of Cook County Forest Preserves, Mary Larai), some hiked, and some gathered both inside and out and simply chatted.

Just a thought; could it be that it wasn't only natural habitats that were being restored, enhanced, and otherwise rediscovered at Spring Creek that day. Perhaps we members of the community are benefiting from these ongoing efforts every bit as much as our forest preserve.

If you "get the itch to pitch (in)" with restoration efforts you can check the weekend work day schedule for Spring Creek Stewards at [www.springcreekstewards.org](http://www.springcreekstewards.org). Also, our annual Earth Day Work Day at Spring Creek will be on Sunday, April 22. Mark you calendars now! This is a family event with lunch and camaraderie provided at no cost. Come help make a difference at what has become an international observance. population density, the full impact and hardship on those living as we do in Barrington Hills is far greater.







Village of Barrington Hills  
112 Algonquin Road  
Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199  
[www.barringtonhills-il.gov](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov)

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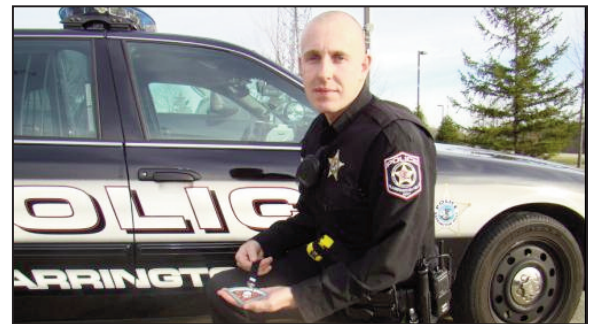
With the warm weather  
we've been having, please  
remember to be watchful  
of bikers, joggers, riders  
and pedestrians who  
share our roads.  
**STAY SAFE!**

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### Congratulations Officer McKinney

Congratulations to Officer Patrick J. McKinney for successfully completing the 13.1 mile Monster Dash Half Marathon that took place in Chicago on October 29, 2011. Officer McKinney finished the race with an impressive time of 2 hours 13 minutes.

Officer McKinney is an avid runner who was cheered on by his wife Michele and his two daughters Madeline and Jenna.



## Directory

### Village of Barrington Hills

112 Algonquin Road  
Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199  
**Web address with e-mail**  
[www.barringtonhills-il.gov](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov)

**Phone**  
847-551-3000

**Village Hall Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

**Director of  
Administration**  
Robert Kosin

### MEETINGS

#### Village Board

4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM

#### Equestrian Commission

1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM

#### E-911 ETSB

2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM

#### Plan Commission

2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM

#### Zoning Board of Appeals

3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM

#### Board of Health

3rd Wednesday of the month,  
7:30 PM

#### Communications Committee

3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 PM

#### Police Pension Board

4th Monday of the month, 9:00 AM

All meetings are held in the Alexander MacArthur Room of the Barrington Hills Village Hall.  
Should you wish to comment at any of these meetings, your advance notice, by telephoning the office of the Village Clerk at 847-551-3000, is appreciated.

### Board of Trustees

Robert G. Abboud  
*President*  
Fritz Gohl  
*Pro-Tem*  
Harold "Skip" Gianopulos  
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